

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.       A computer method for providing tools for manipulating an object on  
a display device using a pointer comprising:
  - displaying an object on a display device;
  - determining if the object has been selected;
  - displaying a first toolset if the object has been selected;
  - 10       determining if the pointer is stationary over the object; and
  - if the pointer is stationary over the object for a threshold length of time,  
displaying a second toolset.
- 15           2.       The computer method of Claim 1, wherein the step of displaying a  
second toolset comprises if the pointer is stationary over the object for a threshold  
length of time, displaying a second toolset while maintaining accessibility of the first  
toolset.
- 20           3.       The computer method of Claim 2, wherein maintaining accessibility  
of the first toolset comprises repositioning the first toolset to provide space on the  
display device for the second toolset.
- 25           4.       The computer method of Claim 2, wherein the threshold length of  
time is a first threshold length of time and wherein the method further comprises the  
step of
  - if the pointer is stationary over the object for a second threshold length of  
time, displaying a third tool set.

5. The computer method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of if the third toolset is displayed, maintaining availability of the first toolset and the second toolset.

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6. The computer method of Claim 1, wherein the first toolset and the second toolset comprise handles.

7. The computer method of Claim 1, wherein the first toolset and the second toolset comprise a first handle, and wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

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determining if a user interacts the pointer with the first handle; and  
if the user interacts the pointer with the first handle, displaying a second handle.

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8. The computer method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
displaying a rotation tool operative to rotate the object about an axis of rotation; and

if the pointer is over the rotation tool, displaying an axis-of-rotation tool,  
operative to adjust the axis of rotation.

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9. A computer method for providing a handle for performing an operation on an object on a display device using a pointer comprising:

displaying a first handle for the object on the display device, wherein the first handle is operative to receive first pointer input and to perform a first operation on the object on the basis of the first pointer input;

determining if the pointer is over the first handle; and

if the pointer is over the first handle, displaying a second handle operative to receive second pointer input and to perform a second operation on the object on the basis of the second pointer input.

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10. The computer method of Claim 9, wherein the first operation comprises rotating the object about an axis of rotation and wherein the second operation comprises adjusting the axis of rotation.

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11. The computer method of Claim 9, wherein the second operation comprises refining the first operation.

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12. The computer method of Claim 9, wherein the first operation comprises manipulating the object and the second operation comprises adjusting a manipulation parameter of the first operation.

13. The computer method of Claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

determining if the pointer is stationary over the object; and

if the pointer is stationary over the object for a predetermined length of time,

displaying a third handle operative to perform a third operation on the object.

14. The computer method of Claim 9, further comprising the steps of:  
determining if the pointer is stationary over the object;  
if the pointer is stationary over the object, timing a length of time that the  
pointer is stationary over the object;
- 5 if the pointer is stationary over the object for a first threshold of time,  
displaying a third handle operative to perform a third operation on the object; and  
if the pointer is stationary over the object for a second threshold of time,  
displaying a fourth handle operative to perform a fourth operation on the object.

15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

displaying a graphic on a display;  
displaying a pointer on the display;  
5 identifying a position of the graphic on the display;  
identifying a position of the pointer on the display;  
displaying a first handle operative to perform a first operation on the graphic;  
and

if the pointer is positioned over the graphic for a length of time, displaying a  
10 second handle operative to perform a second operation on the graphic.

16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the step of displaying a first handle further comprises

determining if the graphic changes from an unselected state to a selected state  
15 and displaying a first handle operative to manipulate the graphic if the graphic is in the selected state.

17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the step of displaying a second handle comprises

20 if the pointer is positioned over the graphic and is stationary for a threshold length of time, displaying a second handle operative to manipulate the graphic.

18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the step of displaying a first handle comprises

if the graphic changes from an unselected state to a selected state, displaying a first handle operative to perform a first manipulation on the graphic, and

5 wherein the step of displaying a second handle comprises

if the pointer is positioned over the graphic for a threshold length of time, displaying a second handle operative to perform a second manipulation on the graphic.

10 19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the first operation comprises manipulating the graphic and wherein the second operation comprises adjusting a manipulation parameter of the graphic.

15 20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the first operation comprises rotating the graphic about an axis of rotation and wherein the second operation comprises adjusting the axis of rotation.